



June 2, 2005

\$375,000 bank fraud nets prison sentence

A bookkeeper at a family-owned electric motor company forged 382 checks

A federal judge today sentenced **Ogden Mills Fell**, of Johnston, to 18 months in federal prison for forging \$375,249 in checks written against accounts of Safe-Way Electric Motor Company, where he was a bookkeeper. Fell also filed false tax returns.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Torres also ordered Fell, 54, of 7 Primrose Lane, to repay the company the money he embezzled.

In February, Fell pleaded guilty to bank fraud and two counts of filing false tax returns. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew J. Reich said that the government could prove that, between December 2000 and July 2003, Fell forged the signature of one of Safe-Way Electric Company's owners on 382 checks and cashed the checks at Domestic Bank and Citizens Bank. Fell was a bookkeeper at the company from 1996 until 2003.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Reich noted that Fell may soon be able to make full restitution to the company as a result of an anticipated family inheritance. At the sentencing hearing, the family that owns the company and an attorney representing it said Fell's embezzlement almost bankrupted the company and caused great hardship to the family.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Reich said the government could also prove that Fell understated his income on tax returns that he filed for 2002 and 2003, failing to report a total of \$365,749 in

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illegal income from the forgery scheme. The government's tax loss from the false returns was \$102,409.86. Judge Torres ordered Fell to file corrected tax returns for 2002 and 2003.

The **Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations**, the **Federal Bureau of Investigations**, and the **U.S. Department of Labor** investigated the case.

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